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ON THE AUTHORSHIP OF THE FIRST AMERICAN CONCHOLOGICAL MANUAL, JOHN WARREN'S, "THE CONCHOLOGIST"

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The first American conchological manual, *The Conchologist*, appeared in Boston during 1834, to fill a perceived need among shell collectors. Its supposed author was John Warren, a dealer in shells and curios, who, according to Dall (1888: 105), was still extant in 1857. "A stout, florid old gentleman," he supplied Miss Sarah Pratt and other Boston amateurs with handsome shells at high prices. *The Conchologist* is cobbled together from a number of sources. Not willing to make a stand regarding classification, John Warren divided the book into two sections. Warren writes, "The Linnaean System, being the least complex, I have considered in the First Part; being only thirty-six genera, with their divisions and families. The Second Part is entirely confined to the Lamarckian."

After acknowledging general thanks to a number of people amongst whom only D. Humphrey Storer and Augustus A. Gould, both members of the Boston Society of Natural History, are now remembered for having written on mollusks, Warren writes in his Preface, "To a young friend, whose modesty forbids the mention of his name, I am greatly obliged, as well as to Mr. James J. Jarvis [*sic*], a

young man of great talents, and one who bids fair to be a shining character and an ornament to society and his country." He further thanks Seth Bass, M.D. for the use of his library and for preparing a list of *Unio* (freshwater mussels).

A copy of this work in the library of the Department of Mollusks, Museum of Comparative Zoology, formerly belonging to Edward Tuckerman (1818-86), reveals that he was the "modest" compiler of the first section of this work. His note on the fly leaf is reproduced below.

Note. The first part of this book was entirely by my labors. —
 In 1832, being one of the many centuries in conchology, which at that time, received great attention, I, from the books in the Athenaeum, and elsewhere, formed a compilation which formed the first 137 pages of this book. In 1833, I made an assignment of it to John Warren (a bookseller, and conchologist) for some English works of value. As I sold him the copyright, it of course appeared in his name. —

The plates were drawn by William Hunt M.D. of the time, and the colored copies of the work were sold at \$5.00. —

Boston. N.E. March. 1854.

Edward Tuckerman. Junr.

I enclose Mr. Tuckerman's additions to my list, I have enclosed in brackets etc. (5)

He has altered, added and amended (?) so much in some parts, that I can hardly recognize my own work. — 1854.

"Note. The 1st Part of this book was entirely by my labor.-----In 1832 being one of the many enthusiasts in conchology, which at the time, received great attention, from the books in the [Boston] Athenaeum, and elsewhere I formed a compilation which forms the first 133 pages of this book. In 1833, I made an assignment of it to John Warren (a bookseller, and conchologist) for some English works of value. As I sold him a copyright, it of course appears in his name. The plates were drawn by William Hunt M.D. of this town, and the colored copies of this work were sold at \$8.00.

Edward Tuckerman, Junr.

Boston, N[ew] E[ngland] March 1834

S. [*sic*] Some of Mr. W's additions to my text, I have enclosed in brackets. E.T. Jr.

He has altered, added and amended (?) so much in some parts, that I can hardly recognize any [more].

ETJ"

Of the Linnaean works mentioned in the preface, Wood (1815), Shaw (1800-1826), Dillwyn (1817), and Mawe (1823), all are still available in the Boston Athenaeum, as well as one not mentioned; *Time's Telescope for 1822*. Dance (1986: 143) pointed out that the Introduction to *The Conchologist* was copied almost verbatim from the anonymous, "*Outline of Conchology*" which appeared in that publication, and was dismissed by him as "high in moral tone, low in science." If Tuckerman appears somewhat irritated by some of Warren's alterations, his copy has been corrected in the light of maturity, for he was then seventeen and a sophomore at Union College in

Schenectady, New York, the oldest non-denominational college in the United States, from which he received a Bachelor's degree in 1837. He had made the compilation when he was only fifteen. When twenty one, he published, "*An imumeration of some lichens of New England*," in the Journal of the Boston Society of Natural History (1839). He early explored the White Mountains of New Hampshire for lichens where Tuckerman's Ravine is now named for him. Born into a prosperous mercantile family, he was able to earn a Master's degree at Union College, and return to Cambridge where he entered the Senior Class at Harvard, receiving an A.B. Degree in 1847. He took other degrees at Harvard, even studying for a time at the Divinity School. In 1854 he was appointed Lecturer of History at Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts, and later Professor of Botany there, a position he held until his death in 1886. He is remembered today as a distinguished botanist (Farlow, 1895) and elder brother of Frederick Goddard Tuckerman (1821-73), the poet, whose collected works were edited by Momady (1965).

Samuel Brooks (1815), a member of The Linnean [*sic*] Society of London, was among the first to recognize the inadequacies of the Linnaean system, and to introduce Lamarckian genera to an English audience, but since most of Lamarck's new genera were published after 1817, it was Children (1777-1852), an assistant keeper in the British Museum, who made a translation of the molluscan genera described by Lamarck in his *Historie naturelle des animaux sans vertèbres* (vols. 5-7, 1818-1822) and established type species for many of the genera. These type specimens were subsequently studied by Kennard, *et al.* (1931). Children's work originally appeared without the author's name, in the *Quarterly Journal of Science, Literature and*

the Arts published by the Royal Institution of Great Britain, between October, 1822, and January 1824. He was editor of the *Journal* during this time. It also came out under his own name as a separate work, but it is extremely rare in that form. Children, especially, and Crouch (1826) formed the basis for Gould's (1833), *Lamarck's genera of shells, with a catalogue of species*. Both the *Journal* and Crouch were available to him at the Boston Athenaeum. In his introduction, Gould mistakenly credits W. Leach as the author of Children's work.

From Warren's Preface, it can be assumed that James Jackson Jarves (1818-88), named for the distinguished Boston physician who attended his birth, compiled the Second Part, based on Gould's slim volume. Though no copy of it is in the Boston Athenaeum, it may well have been made available to the then 15 or 16 year lad by Gould himself or by Seth Bass. Like Gould's work, it does not contain type species of the various genera, but lists numerous species under each of them. There is nothing to suggest that Gould translated anything from the French himself, and Jarves's work is no more than an adumbration of Gould, with additional species, that were subsequently available, (possibly from Warren's stock) listed under the genera. Like Tuckerman, Jarves came from a well-to-do family. His father was the manufacturer of Sandwich Glass. Too sickly to attend Harvard University, in 1838, at the age of twenty, Jarvis went to the Hawaiian Islands and was for a number of years United States Consul in Honolulu, where he published the first newspaper ever printed there, "*The Polynesian*." After writing a number of books about the islands, he left in 1848 to reside in Florence, Italy, where he made a distinguished collection of paintings, mostly Italian primitives. In addition to writing a

number of books on art, he exhibited his collection in the United States. The Boston Athenaeum was given the first opportunity to purchase the collection but refused. It now forms an important part of the art collection at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. He died in 1888 in Switzerland. "*The two lives of James Jackson Jarves*" by Steegmuller (1951) bears out the accuracy of the prediction made by Warren.

Seth Bass, physician and Proprietor of the Boston Athenaeum, founded in 1807, served as its Librarian from 1825-46 when it was still housed in the mansion in Pearl Street given to it by James Perkins (Bolton, 1907). Here he had access to the Transactions of the American Philosophical Society in which Isaac Lea described his Unios. The Boston Society of Natural History founded in 1830 kept rooms in the Athenaeum until 1833, so it is more than probable that the young authors became acquainted with some of its members.

The lithographic plates, in some copies, hand colored, were produced by one of the earliest successful Boston lithographers, Pendleton's, whose name appeared on plate 1. The firm was established in 1825 and continued by Thomas Moore until 1840. The shop trained Nathaniel Currier, later of Currier and Ives fame, and Fitz Hugh Lane, the maritime painter. Thanks to Tuckerman, we know that the artist who produced the plates was Dr. William Hunt (fl. 1834-1838) who worked at Pendleton's and is mentioned in *Boston Lithography 1825-1880* by Pierce and Slautterback (1991: 175). Miss Sarah Pickering Pratt, a Proprietor of the Boston Athenaeum, one of those whom Warren's volume was obviously designed to inspire in collecting, presented her extensive collection of over 4,000 specimens to the Boston Society of Natural History upon

her death in 1867 with the then large sum of \$10,000 for its upkeep and growth. Her collection, with all of the non-New England collection, but not the money, was transferred to the Museum of Comparative Zoology beginning in 1914.

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